

TWO NEW CONE SHELLS (MOLLUSCA, CONIDAE) FROM QUEENSLAND

By J. A. MARSH.^o

Plate 4.

Two interesting new species of *Conus* have recently been dredged from waters off the Queensland coast, one from near Townsville by Mr. T. Nielsen of the trawler "Tamoi" and one from Moreton Bay, by the trawler "Challenge".

FAMILY CONIDAE

Genus *CONUS* Linne, 1758.

Syst. Nat. pp. 712-758. Type species by subsequent designation (Children, 1823, Quart. J. Sci., p. 69) *marmoreus* Linne.

Subgenus *LEPTOCONUS* Swainson, 1840.

Treat. Mal. p. 312. Type species by subsequent designation (Herrmannsen, 1847, Ind. Gen. Malac., 1, p. 584) *Conus amadis* Gmelin.

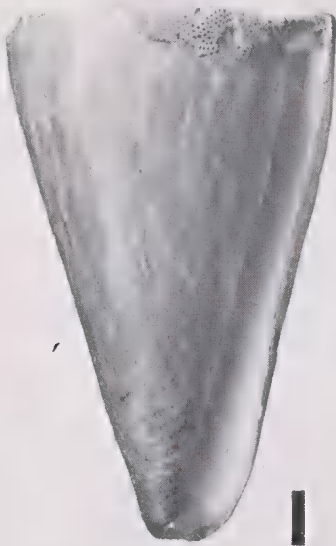
Conus (Leptoconus) nielsenae sp. nov.
(Pl. 4, figs. 1, 2).

Remarks: This interesting species was dredged in 17 fathoms in waters east of Townsville, north Queensland. In appearance it bears a superficial likeness to the fossil *Conus dennanti* Tate. However, the protoconch of the fossil is papillate and knob-like, while this species has the concavely-elevated, sharp-pointed spire typical of *Leptoconus*. The species closest to it in the genus is *Conus monile* Bruguière. *Conus nielsenae* differs from *Conus monile* in having a wider shoulder, more waisted body whorl and relatively unmarked unicoloured appearance. Eight specimens in all were obtained, all of which show little or no variation in size or form from the holotype. Apart from the types, specimens are in the collections of Mrs. J. Grigg, Point Vernon, Mr. G. Alke, Toowoomba, and Mr. R. Brown of Yeppoon, and one specimen is in the author's collection. This species is named in honour of Mollie Nielsen, wife of the finder.

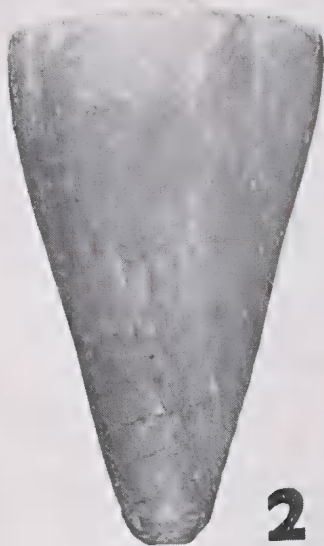
Description: Shell with concavely-elevated, sharp-pointed spire, shoulder angle sharp and wide; sides straight, slightly waisted; smooth polished surface with four lightly incised lines near the base; colour on the body whorl uniformly flesh coloured, encircled with rows of closely set, though fugitive, self-coloured lines. There are some faint lavender coloured growth lines. The shoulder angle is continuously flecked with faint small brown dots; spire white, uniformly streaked with radiating light brown lines or streaks; interior lavender. Periostracum thin, semi-transparent, encircled with rows of projecting hair-like tufts.

Dimensions: Holotype: length 48 mm., width at shoulder 25 mm., length of aperture 45 mm. Paratype: length 46 mm., width at shoulder 27 mm., length of aperture 44 mm.

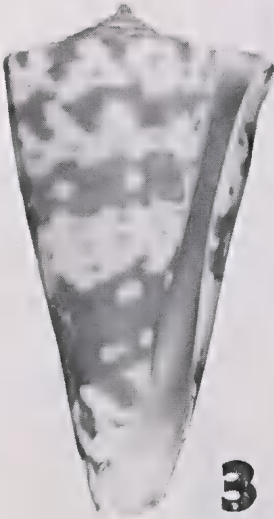
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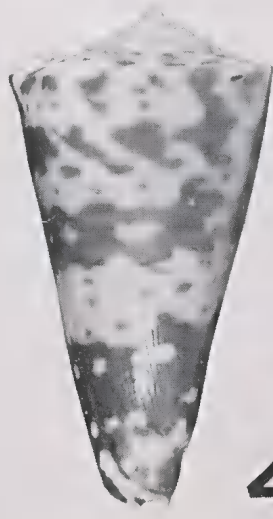
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PLATE 4.

Figs. 1, 2: *Conus (Leptoconus) nielsenae* Marsh. Holotype. Australian Museum C. 63707.

Figs. 3, 4: *Conus (Leptoconus) sculletti* Marsh. Holotype. Australian Museum C. 63709.

Type locality: Dredged in 17 fathoms, north-east of Cape Bowling Green, near Townsville, Queensland.

Types: Holotype and paratype (dead specimen) presented to the Australian Museum, Sydney, registered Nos. C. 63707 and C. 63708 respectively.

Conus (Leptoconus) sculletti sp. nov.

(Pl. 4, figs. 3, 4.)

Remarks: This fine species was trawled in 80 to 120 fathoms off Cape Moreton, south Queensland. A consistent variation among specimens examined has been noted. In some specimens the shoulder is wide and the spire concavely-elevated, while specimens which have a narrow shoulder (by comparison) invariably have rather high extruded spires. The nearest species in the genus is *Conus rufimaculosus* Macpherson. The new species differs from *Conus rufimaculosus* in its general dimensions, flaring shoulder angle and slender waisted sides. The species is named in memory of the late Clive Scullett of Port Douglas, a good friend and companion on many reef excursions.

Description: Shell with wide, flaring, sharp shoulder angle, channelled spire with sharp, pointed protoconch; tapering waisted sides; smooth polished surface. Colour greyish white, with a continuous, uneven band of chestnut brown near the base, and two narrower interrupted bands of the same colour higher on the body whorl; between these bands there are some indiscriminate chestnut flecks and streaks; interior flesh-coloured. Periostracum thin, almost obsolete.

Dimensions: Holotype: length 37 mm., width at shoulder 18 mm., length of aperture 34 mm. Paratype: length 35 mm., width at shoulder 15 mm., length of aperture 30 mm.

Type locality: Trawled in 80 to 120 fathoms off Cape Moreton, South Queensland.

Types: Holotype and paratype presented to the Australian Museum, Sydney, registered Nos. C. 63709 and C. 63710 respectively.

Acknowledgments: The assistance of Dr. D. F. McMichael is gratefully acknowledged.